

Claims

1. A remote electronic purse payment system for use in a content
 5 provider/subscriber environment, wherein prior to an entitlement of a
 subscriber to receive and/or unscramble a particular content, and at the
 subscriber's discretion, a corresponding amount is debited on an
 electronic purse card and corresponding transaction data are temporarily
 stored in a protected local storage within a module associated with the
 10 subscriber, the stored transaction data being protected against unauthorized
 access, entitlement to receive and/or unscramble the particular content is
 enabled locally within the module associated with the subscriber, and
 deferred financial transactions are performed on demand of the content
 provider over a remote communication channel to collect transaction data
 15 stored in the protected local storage.
2. A remote electronic purse payment system for use in a content
 provider/subscriber environment, wherein a prepaid amount corresponding
 to multiple value points is debited on an electronic purse card and stored
 20 in a protected local value register within a module associated with the
 subscriber, entitlement to receive and/or unscramble the particular content
 is subject to deduction of corresponding value points from the value register
 locally within the module associated with the subscriber, and deferred
 financial transactions are performed on demand of the content provider
 25 and over a remote communication channel to collect deducted value
 points.
3. The system of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the module associated with the
 subscriber is a conditional access module and a merchant security module
 30 function is embodied within the conditional access module.

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4. The system of claim 3, wherein the conditional access module is embodied as a PCMCIA form factor card.
5. The system of claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the conditional access module incorporates a smartcard reader.
6. The system of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the module associated with a subscriber is used in an interface device connected between a user terminal and a broadcast channel.
7. The system of claim 2, wherein the subscriber card may remain in the module associated with the subscriber as long as prepaid value is available in the value register.
8. The system of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a merchant security module function is simulated by a software module loaded into a conditional access module.
9. The system of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a merchant security module function is simulated by a software module loaded into the subscriber card.
10. The system of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a merchant security module function is simulated by a software module loaded into the electronic purse card.
11. The system of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the protected storage comprises separate address spaces associated with and accessible by different content providers.
12. The system of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a license certificate is generated from at least one of the following data:

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